



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KOLSTE ENCOURAGED WITH EARLY SUCCESS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

MADISON – A recently released state report documented a 10% reduction in the number of opioid prescriptions issued by providers compared to the same time period last year. This amounts to roughly 8.2 million fewer prescriptions issued and dispensed in Wisconsin.

“The data indicates the policies that have been put in place by the state legislature to curb opioid addiction are working,” said Rep. Kolste. “The first step in resolving our state’s opioid epidemic is to reduce the amount of prescription drugs in circulation, and that is exactly what is happening.”

The report was issued by the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board and documented usage of and satisfaction with the state’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The PDMP is an electronic system used by physicians, pharmacists, and law enforcement to monitor prescribing habits and report prescription drug misuse and abuse.

The report also detailed that law enforcement agencies submitted 925 reports to the PDMP. The majority of these reports were for stolen controlled substance prescriptions or suspected opioid related overdoses.

“Last session I co-authored Assembly Bill 365, requiring law enforcement officers who encounter a violation of law concerning prescription scheduled drugs to upload that information into the state’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and have the PDMP notify the physician,” Kolste said. I have been proud to work with Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and others to pass strong bipartisan legislation that will equip Wisconsin physicians, pharmacists, and law enforcement with the tools necessary to promote the health, safety and well-being of Wisconsin residents.”

Beginning with the 2013 legislative session there have been 17 pieces of legislation passed aimed at combating heroin and prescription drug addiction.

“Along with the Governor’s Task Force on Opioid Abuse and my colleagues in the legislature, I look forward to continuing to advance legislation to reduce the prevalence of opioids and expand access to addiction treatment,” said Kolste. I am confident that the PDMP will only get better as providers, pharmacists, and law enforcement become more acclimated to using the system.”

The Department of Safety and Professional Services is developing an enhanced PDMP (ePDMP) system that will be deployed during the first quarter of 2017. The enhanced version will be more user friendly and incorporate improved reporting capabilities.